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GOVERNOR

STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HOSPITALS
OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH
LOUISIANA CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PREVENTION PROGRAM



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SECRETARY

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BLOOD LEAD SCREENING
IMPORTANT REMINDER FOR MEDICAL PROVIDERS

Lead poisoning is the most common, preventable environmental health problem of children nationwide and in Louisiana. The Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Public Health's Louisiana Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (LACLPPP) would like to urge all medical providers to **screen** children in high risk communities for lead poisoning. Your compliance is needed with screening, as stated below:

Screening for Lead Toxicity

For all children, it is recommended by the CDC that primary care providers administer a risk assessment questionnaire at every well baby visit up until 6 years of age to determine children at risk for lead poisoning. If the answer to any of the questions is "Yes" or "unknown" screen the child with a blood lead test.

Louisiana state rule (LAC 48: V. 7005-7009)

Medical providers must screen children, in accordance with the Center for Diseases Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, if they provide routine care to children ages 6 months to 72 months who reside or spend more than 10 hours per week in the high risk parishes of Orleans, Tensas, West Carroll, and Morehouse. Screening includes the following:

- Administration of risk assessment questionnaire at every well baby visit.
- Blood lead testing at ages 1 and 2, or if between 3 and 6 years of age and not previously tested.

LA Medicaid Lead Screening Requirements

Louisiana KIDMED (EPSDT) requires all Medicaid/LaCHIP recipients receive a blood lead test at ages 1 and 2, or, if between the ages of 1 and 6 years of age and not previously tested.

As South Louisiana rebuilds, we have an opportunity to create a lead safe environment for children and families. The Louisiana Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program needs your continued commitment to achieve Healthy People 2010 goals. If you have any questions, please contact LACLPPP at (504) 219-4413.

Sincerely,

Gina Payton Lagarde, M.D., MBA
Child Health Medical Director &
LACLPPP Medical Director